



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# Public Health

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December 22, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *je fielding*  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR HIV/AIDS PREVENTION  
AND TREATMENT SERVICES DELIVERY IN SERVICE PLANNING AREA 1**

On November 12, 2008, your Board adopted a motion by Supervisor Antonovich that instructed the Director of Public Health to conduct a Request for Proposals (RFP) to locate interested providers for services previously provided under the Antelope Valley Hope Foundation's contract, and report back to the Board in thirty days to give a status report on the RFP's progress. This report is in response to that motion.

## BACKGROUND

There are approximately 500 Los Angeles County residents currently diagnosed and living with HIV/AIDS in the Antelope Valley. Approximately 300 of the people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Service Planning Area 1 (SPA 1) receive care and treatment services from four agencies contracted by the Department of Public Health's Office of AIDS Programs and Policy (OAPP). Many of these SPA 1 residents experience challenges in accessing care and treatment services. These challenges, noted below, were recently brought into focus by the closing of Antelope Valley Hope Foundation, a community-based organization providing key services to PLWHA in SPA 1. A Los Angeles-based nonprofit experienced in case management, treatment, and prevention education has temporarily stepped in to continue services previously provided by Antelope Valley Hope Foundation.

## RFP STATUS UPDATE

OAPP is developing the RFP as requested by the Board. Based on a series of meetings with HIV-positive consumers, key informants, providers of HIV/AIDS services and other HIV/AIDS and public health stakeholders in SPA 1 throughout the year, the Department and OAPP share the urgency to reshape and improve the delivery of HIV/AIDS services in SPA 1, and are seeking to release an RFP as quickly as possible. OAPP has constituted an internal team of senior managers to oversee the streamlining of services and ensure expeditious development of an RFP for a comprehensive set of care, treatment and prevention services.

Among the drivers for the accelerated release of a SPA 1 Services RFP is the volume of feedback OAPP has received related to the nature and extent of unique challenges faced by SPA 1 residents. These challenges include:

- Lack of adequate access to existing services;
- Lack of client-centered care;
- Inadequate level of services within the SPA;
- Limited service mix within the SPA;
- Fragmented services;
- Lack of specialty care;
- Lack of support services;
- Poor transportation services;
- Provider insensitivity to consumer diversity, including AIDS stigma and homophobia; and
- Perceived “turf” issues among providers.

To further enhance the RFP development efforts, OAPP recently completed an intensive needs assessment survey among a subset of consumers of HIV/AIDS services in SPA 1. Data analysis is currently underway and a preliminary report will be ready later this month. This information will also be used in the development of the RFP.

In addition to the client- and provider-level data already compiled and under analysis, the internal team is assessing current service utilization patterns against identified needs to determine an optimal service mix for SPA 1. Upon identifying an optimal service mix, the team will be working on potential service delivery models that could be used to address the accessibility problems currently experienced by SPA 1 consumers of HIV services. This information will help the Department make decisions on the location of re-configured services in a geographic area that parallels where a majority of consumers live. The final step in this process will consist of determining the level of fiscal resources that will be needed to support the new HIV service delivery model for SPA 1. These steps will all inform development of the RFP to solicit proposals that are as responsive as possible to the unique needs of this SPA.

Below is a preliminary timeline for the development of the SPA 1 Services RFP. Due to the careful analysis and planning required to reshape services and respond to consumer needs, OAPP anticipates an RFP release date of June 1, 2009. In the interim, OAPP will continue to work to complete the Counseling and Testing RFP, complete the Health Education/Risk Reduction RFP, release the Medical Transportation RFP, release Parts I and II of the Medical Services RFP, and release the Community Mobilization Initiative RFP. The release of the SPA 1 Services RFP will follow.

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
RFP Development	May 31, 2009
RFP Release Date	June 1, 2009
Proposals Due Date	July 1, 2009
Review of Proposals	July 2, 2009 – August 30, 2009
Funding Recommendation Announcement	September 15, 2009
Contract Negotiations	October 1, 2009 – January 15, 2010
New Contract(s) Start	March 1, 2010

## ADDRESSING EXISTING PROBLEMS

In addition to developing the new RFP, OAPP is in the process of addressing many of the challenges identified in the delivery of HIV services in SPA 1. Some of the steps being taken by OAPP to address these issues are:

- Psychiatric Services: OAPP is in the process of allocating additional financial resources to increase the availability of psychiatric services at High Desert Health System from one day per week to two days per week.
- Clinical Supervision: OAPP is working with the Catalyst Foundation to increase its capacity to provide HIV clinical supervision to a mid-level HIV/AIDS practitioner.
- Dental Services: OAPP is working with AIDS Project Los Angeles to identify local providers of dental care willing to be part of the service delivery system.
- Client-Centered Care: OAPP will be organizing a series of seminars for SPA 1 service providers on the treatment and management of HIV disease, client diversity, and client-centered care.
- HIV Counseling and Testing Services (HCT): As a result of the recently completed RFP for HCT services, an HCT service provider will be in place by June 1, 2009.
- Prevention Services: As a result of the RFP for Health Education/Risk Reduction Services currently under way, a service provider will be in place by June 1, 2009.

DPH is committed to ensuring that there is a comprehensive continuum of HIV prevention and care services that addresses the unique challenges faced by Antelope Valley residents. To this end, I have requested OAPP to provide a subsequent update on the development of the RFP by March 31, 2009.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you need additional information.

JEF:cvm  
PH:811:001

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors